BIRDING NOTES Compiled by Aasheesh Pittie

This column publishes birding notes in brief telegraphic form, from **Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu** on interesting and significant sightings and behaviour like breeding, feeding, migration, nesting, *etc*. Notes on flowering and fruiting trees and their relationship with birds are also welcome. English names and classification follow, S.D. Ripley's *A Synopsis of the Birds of India and Pakistan* (1982, 2nd ed.) and scientific nomenclature, T. Inskipp, N. Lindsey & W. Duckworth's *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of the Oriental Region* (1996). Unless specified, all observations are for 2000. Abbreviations, Contributors, Notes, Regional Referees, *etc*., are at the end. For selection of breeding criteria 'Probable, Possible, Confirmed', see *Pitta* # 82, February 1998, p. 4.

ANDHRA PRADESH

NELLORE DISTRICT

Nellapattu Bird Sanctuary 13-14.xii.1999 (SAK)

BLACK BITTERN 5; OPENBILL STORK ad., 338, yng 48; N 189 (35+11+6+8+13+16+19+8+7+30+11 +25)[1]; NIGHT HERON 4; GREY PELICAN ad., 48, N 37 (23+6+8)[1]; WHITE IBIS ad., 256, yng 8, N 59 (10+10+1+4+10+3+9+12)[1]; PINTAILS 108; GARGANEY 194; SPOTBILL 14; COMMON TEAL 212; BLACKWINGED STILT 12; GREY HERON 2; DARTER 1; PAINTED STORK 1; INDIAN CORMORANT 8; DABCHICK CB, N with 2 eggs; LITTLE CORMORANT 96; COOT 76; INDIAN MOORHEN 4; INTERMEDIATE EGRET 6;

Pulicat Bird Sanctuary 15-16.xii.1999 (SAK)

LITTLE STINT 100+; COMMON SANDPIPER 84; SPOTBILL 120; PINTAIL 86; FLAMINGO & LESSER FLAMINGO 1,000+; PAINTED STORK 53; GREY HERON 6; WHITE IBIS 123; GREY PELICAN 65; COMMON TERN & WHISKERED TERN 100+; CURLEW & WHIMBREL 24;

GOA

NORTH GOA DISTRICT

Chapora River, Estuary of 15.xi.1999 (HL)

EASTERN KNOT 3; SLENDER-BILLED GULL 6+.

SOUTH GOA DISTRICT

Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary (HL)

29.xi-1.xii.1999: BROWN-THROATED SPINETAIL SWIFT 4+; ROSY MINIVET 1M, 2F; LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER 1.

24-31.xii.1999: BLACK-CRESTED BAZA 1M; ALPINE SWIFT 10+; GREAT PIED HORNBILL 1; ROSY MINIVET 2M, 1F; RUFOUS-BELLIED MUNIA 2.

KERALA

IDUKKI DISTRICT

Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary 17.x.1999 (NO,PR,KRA)

Altitude 215m: Dry deciduous scrub jungle

BROWN DOVE; BLUEWINGED PARAKEET; EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET; BROWN SHRIKE

Mannavan Shola 18.x.1999 (NO,PR,KRA)

Altitude 1,110m: Shola

SCIMITAR BABBLER; QUARKER BABBLER; BLACK AND ORANGE FLYCATCHER; WHITEBELLIED BLUE FLYCATCHER; VERDITER FLYCATHER; NILGIRI VERDITER FLYCATCHER; GREYHEADED FLYCATCHER; LARGE CROWNED LEAF WARBLER; MALABAR WHISTLING THRUSH; WHITEBREASTED LAUGHING THRUSH; BLACKBIRD; VELVETFRONTED NUTHATCH; WHITE EYE.

Marayur 19.x.1999 (NO,PR,KRA)

Altitude 955m: Moist Deciduous Forest

CRESTED HAWK-EAGLE; RUFOUSBACKED SHRIKE; GREY DRONGO; BLACK BULBUL; SPOTTED BABBLER; GREENISH LEAF WARBLER; GREY WAGTAIL

Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary 28-30.xii.1999 (NO,PR,KRA)

Altitude 25-200m: Moist deciduous to evergreen forests with lot of reeds

LITTLE GREEN HERON; JERDON'S IMPERIAL PIGEON; BLOSSOMHEADED PARAKEET; BLUEWINGED PARAKEET; ORIENTAL SCOPS OWL (*Otus scops rufipennis*); BROWN HAWK-OWL; CEYLON FROGMOUTH 1M, hrd 2; MALABAR TROGON; MALABAR GREY HORNBILL; SMALL GREEN BARBET; CRIMSONTHROATED BARBET; SPECULED PICULET CB N-hole on trunk, *c*. 15'-20' up dead *Macaranga peltata* tree. Ad., feeding yng; BLACK WOODPECKER; PIGMY WOODPECKER; HEARTSPOTTED WOODPECKER; BRONZED DRONGO; GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO; HILL MYNA; WHITEBELLIED TREEPIE; YELLOWBROWED BULBUL; BLACKHEADED BABBLER; QUAKER BABBER; WYANAD LAUGHING THRUSH; MALABAR WHISTILING THRUSH; BROWN FLYCATCHER; BROWNBREASTED FLYCATCHER; RUFOUSTAILED FLYCATCHER; WHITEBELLIED BLUE FLYCATCHER; BLUETHROATED FLYCATCHER; TICKELL'S BLUE FLYCATHER; VERDITER FLYCATCHER; PARADISE FLYCATCHER; GREENISH LEAF WARBLER; LARGE CROWNED LEAF WARBLER; GREY TIT; FOREST WAGTAIL; GREY WAGTAIL; SMALL SUNBIRD; LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER.

TRICHUR DISTRICT

Vazhachal forest 29.ix.1999 (NO,PR,KRA)

Altitude 927-1155m: Semi-evergreen moist-deciduous forests

GREY FRONTED GREEN PIGEON; BLUE WINGED PARAKEET; MALABAR GREY HORNBILL; CRIMSON-THROATED BARBET; RUBYTHROATED BULBUL; YELLOW-BROWED BULBUL; HILL MYNA; QUARKER BABBLER; MALABAR WHISTLING THRUSH; GREY WAGTAIL

TAMIL NADU

COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Sundaka Muthur Lake (10km from Coimbatore) 17.xii.1999 (SAK)

GREY PELICAN 52, roosting.

Indira Gandhi National Park 20-23.xii.1999 (SAK)

CEYLON FROGMOUTH 1 (Karian Shola); BLUEBEARDED BEE EATER 1; BROADBILLED ROLLER 1; MALABAR GREY HORNBILL 3; MALABAR PIED HORNBILL 3; BRONZE DRONGO 3; HILL MYNA 5; WHITEBELLIED TREE PIE 3.

ABBREVIATIONS: Ab-abundant; ad-adult/s; br-breeding; C-common/ly; CB-confirmed breeding; const-construction/ing; *c*.-approximately; disp-display/ing; F-female; flt-flight; fly-family; freq-frequent/ly; hrd-heard; id-identify/ied; imm-immature; inc-include/ing; Is-Island; juv-juvenile; LM-local migrant; M-male; mat-material; N-nest/ing/s; POB-possible breeding; PRB-probable breeding; plm-plumage; RF-Reserve Forest; Resp-respectively; Tlk-Taluk; vil-village; WL-wildlife; yng-young.

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NOTES: [1]Number of nests per tree.

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